

Notes and Observations

EURRHYPARA PERLUCIDALIS HUEBNER (LEP.: PYRALIDAE) IN LINCOLNSHIRE. — On the morning of 1st August, 1977 I noticed in the bottom of a light-trap which Mr. G. M. Haggett had run near damp forest not far from Wragby, central Lincolnshire, a slightly battered specimen of *E. perlucidalis*. This appears to be the first record of it in that county. Its British status is not wholly clear. It was first caught by Mere in Woodwalton Fen, Hunts., in 1951, though not identified until 1957. Captures in that and several succeeding years showed that it was resident and fairly common; but I do not know of any report of it there in this decade. It has also been found in Wicken Fen, Cambs.; and in several years in Walberswick Marshes in Suffolk, where it was probably also resident. However, some at least of the single recorded captures in Kent, Essex, Norfolk and Hampshire were made in circumstances which suggest immigration rather than residence. The late H. C. Huggins considered that it was probably a "settler" species which became established, perhaps only temporarily, by immigration. More information is needed to determine its true status in Britain. — R. F. BRETHERTON, Folly Hill, Birtley Green, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey GU5 0LE.

A NOTE ON *EURRHYPARA PERLUCIDALIS* HUEBNER (LEP.: PYRALIDAE). — Aptopos of Mr. Bretherton's note on *E. perlucidalis* above, this moth has occurred annually in Essex and Norfolk for the past few years, and in 1976 was particularly plentiful very locally at light and on being disturbed from rough vegetation by day. Some years ago I found a number of the larvae on *Cirsium oleraceum* Scop. in August and September in Belgium, in a marshy locality where *perlucidalis* had long been known to occur.

I had thought that the species was breeding in Britain, but since *C. oleraceum* does not occur where the moth is found, suspected it fed here on some closely allied plant. These suspicions were realised when, early in October 1976, I was rewarded by finding two nearly full-grown larvae on *C. arvense* Scop. (Creeping Thistle) in Norfolk at the spot where the moth was present in numbers in July that year. One of these larvae died shortly after, but the other after continuing to feed for a while, formed a habitation in a dead blade of grass in which it successfully hibernated and in due course pupated. This summer upon examining the pupa in its habitation, I noticed with satisfaction that the imago had partly formed within the pupal case, but on peering closer saw with dismay that the abdomen had been partly eaten by some predator.

In places where the moth is known to occur, the larva should be searched for beneath the basal leaves of the food-plant, stretched along the mid-rib under a thin silken covering.